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CITE TDCS-314/13308-71

DIST 13 DECEMBER 1971

COUNTRY : INDIA PAKISTAN USSR CHINA

DOI : 10 DECEMBER 1971

SUBJECT : INDIAN PRIME MINISTER INDIRA GANDHI'S BRIEFING

ON THE INDO-PAKISTAN WAR

(b)(1)
(b)(3)
(b)(1)
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ACQ :

SOURCE :

(b)(1)
(b)(3)

1. ON 10 DECEMBER 1971 INDIAN PRIME MINISTER INDIRA GANDHI TOLD

THAT ACCEPTANCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS CEASEFIRE

(b)(1)
(b)(3)

RESOLUTION AFTER THE LIBERATION OF BANGLADESH MIGHT MAKE IT

POSSIBLE TO AVOID FURTHER COMPLICATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES

AND MIGHT ALSO RULE OUT THE CURRENT POSSIBILITY OF CHINESE INTER-

VENTION IN LADAKH. DEFENCE MINISTER JAGJIVAN RAM AND CERTAIN

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MILITARY LEADERS, HOWEVER, ARE OPPOSED TO ACCEPTING THE RESOLUTION BEFORE CERTAIN UNSPECIFIED AREAS IN SOUTHERN AZAD KASHMIR ARE LIBERATED AND BEFORE THE WAR MECHANISM OF PAKISTAN IS DESTROYED. MRS. GANDHI ADDED THAT FOR THE MOMENT INDIA WOULD NOT CATEGORICALLY REJECT THE UN CEASEFIRE PROPOSAL; IT WILL ACCEPT THE PROPOSAL AFTER THE AWAMI LEAGUE REGIME IS INSTALLED IN DACCA.

(b)(1)
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2. THE SOVIET UNION IS OF THE VIEW THAT INDIAN SHOULD ACCEPT THE CEASEFIRE AS SOON AS BANGLADESH IS LIBERATED. ACCORDING TO THE PRIME MINISTER THE SOVIETS ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF CHINESE INTERVENTION. IF THE CHINESE WERE TO BECOME DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN THE CONFLICT, MRS. GANDHI SAID, THE CHINESE KNOW THAT THE SOVIET UNION WOULD ACT IN THE SINKIANG REGION. SOVIET AIR SUPPORT MAY BE MADE AVAILABLE TO INDIA AT THAT TIME. MRS. GANDHI NOTED THAT DESPITE PAKISTANI EFFORTS TO EMBROIL THE CHINESE IN THE SUB-CONTINENT, PEKING HAS REFRAINED FROM TAKING PART IN THE CONFLICT TO DATE. P.N. DHAR, CHAIRMAN OF THE POLICY PLANNING COMMISSION, IS CURRENTLY IN MOSCOW TO DISCUSS FUTURE STRATEGY WITH

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SOVIET LEADERS AND TO ASSURE THE SOVIET UNION THAT INDIA HAS NO PLANS TO ANNEX ANY WEST PAKISTANI TERRITORY.

3. AFTER THE LIBERATION OF BANGLADESH, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID, PAKISTAN MIGHT NOT ACCEPT THE CEASEFIRE RESOLUTION BUT MIGHT DECIDE TO CONTINUE THE WAR IN THE WEST TO AVENGE THE LOSS OF BANGLADESH. PAKISTANI STRATEGY MIGHT BE TO BREAK THROUGH THE CHHAMB AREA, WITH CHINESE SUPPORT AGREED IN THE LADAKH REGION, IN A BID TO CUT OFF THE KASHMIR VALLEY.

4. MRS. GANDHI SAID THAT IN THAT CASE THE SOVIET UNION WOULD ATTEMPT TO CONVINCE THE UNITED STATES TO ACCEPT BANGLADESH AS A "FAIT ACCOMPLI" IN THE HOPE THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL PREVAIL UPON PAKISTAN TO ACCEPT A CEASEFIRE WITH AN INDEPENDENT BANGLADESH. THE PRIME MINISTER ADDED THAT IT IS EVEN POSSIBLE THAT, IN SPITE OF ITS ANTI-INDIA STANCE, CHINA MAY ADVISE PAKISTAN TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE REALITY OF BANGLADESH.

5. THE PRIME MINISTER CONCLUDED HER BRIEFING BY SAYING THAT INDIA WILL EMERGE FROM THE WAR AS THE DOMINANT POWER IN SOUTH ASIA AND ALONG THE INDIAN OCEAN. CHINA WILL RESPECT INDIA AND MAY EVEN DECIDE TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH INDIA. ON THE OTHER HAND, PAKISTAN WILL LOSE ITS ECONOMIC POWER WITHOUT WHICH IT WILL NOT BE

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ABLE TO SUPPORT A LARGE MILITARY COMPLEX THE CURRENT PAKISTANI
MILITARY LEADERSHIP WILL NOT BE ABLE TO SURVIVE THE MILITARY DEFEAT.
MRS. GANDHI SAID SHE EXPECTS CHINA AND THE UNITED STATES TO LOSE
INTEREST IN PAKISTAN. SHE ALSO NOTED THAT SHE FORESEES GREATER PRESS-
URE FOR AUTONOMY IN PAKISTAN'S NORTHWEST FRONTIER, BALUCHISTAN AND
SIND. SHE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT A NEW DEMOCRATIC PAKISTAN, BASED
ON AUTONOMOUS REPUBLICS, WILL EMERGE AND THAT IT WILL DESIRE TO
HAVE FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH INDIA.

6. [] DISSEM: STATE DEFENSE CINCMEAFSA CINCPAC PACAF

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